

PARIS AND BONN ASK LITHUANIA TO HALT MOVES FOR A BREAK

URGE TALKS WITH SOVIETS

Mitterrand and Kohl, Ending Talks, Ease Their Strains on Integrating Europe

By ALAN RIDING

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, April 26 — France and West Germany jointly urged Lithuania today to suspend its Parliament's moves toward independence and to seek early negotiations with Moscow with a view to finding "a solution acceptable to all parties."

The move came in a letter addressed to Lithuania's President, Vytautas Landsbergis, by President François Mitterrand of France and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany at the conclusion of two days of talks here.

In their letter, the two leaders said a solution to the complex situation in Lithuania "requires time and patience and should be sought through the classic channels of dialogue."

Self-Determination Backed

"Without doubt, to facilitate the opening of these talks, it would be helpful if the effects of the decisions taken by your Parliament were suspended for a while," they said. "They would lose none of their validity because they are based on the universally recognized principle of the self-determination of peoples."

While Western countries have generally advocated a dialogue between Moscow and Lithuania, this was the first time any of them have specifically called on Lithuania to suspend any of the pro-independence actions taken by its Parliament.

As their meeting concluded, the French and West German leaders signaled that they had surmounted threats to their special relationship posed by recent events in Eastern Europe and that having patched up differences, they were again working in tandem on speeding European integration.

In a joint news conference Mr. Mitterrand and Mr. Kohl fell short of hailing a reconciliation, but both stressed the special role that France and West Germany should now play in Europe.

"We never thought that alone we could make things advance," Mr. Kohl

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said. "But, without arrogance, it can be said that the process of European unity could not occur unless France and Germany pushed for it."

Mr. Mitterrand, who last week joined Mr. Kohl in calling on the 12-nation European Community to start planning political union, said his talks with the German leader had resulted in "a feeling of deep understanding." And he added, "French-German friendship is more alive than ever."

In their letter to the Lithuanian leader, Mr. Mitterrand and Mr. Kohl said they shared "the same worries" about the situation in Lithuania and had decided to convey them to Mr. Landsbergis. But they added, "The Lithuanian people have demonstrated unequivocally their desire to exercise their right to sovereignty."

Their initiative came just days after President Bush and Mr. Mitterrand agreed at a meeting in Florida that the United States Secretary of State, James A. Baker 3d, and the French Foreign Minister, Roland Dumas, should work through diplomatic chan-

nels to promote talks between Vilnius and Moscow.

Munich Analogy Disputed

Earlier today, in a news conference, Mr. Mitterrand and Mr. Kohl were asked whether Lithuania was a victim of "the spirit of Munich," a reference to the 1938 agreement between Britain and Nazi Germany that in effect legitimized Germany's occupation of Czechoslovakia.

Mr. Mitterrand said no comparison could be made between the policies of the Soviet President, Mikhail S. Gorbachev, and Hitler. "We are not on the eve of a war; there is no conquering imperialism," he said.

He said it was now up to Mr. Gorbachev to take the initiative to establish a dialogue with Lithuania, and he added that the contents of the French-German letter would be conveyed to him.

Thatcher's Isolation Seen

Responding to the same question, Mr. Kohl said the comparison to Munich was totally inappropriate. He added, "I do not think it is advisable to create any pressure that could block the start of a true discussion."

In referring to the two days of talks,

French and German officials said one immediate result of the new mood of cooperation between their Governments was likely to be the further isolation of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain when Community leaders hold a special summit meeting in Dublin on Saturday.

Mrs. Thatcher has made no secret of her opposition to both existing Community plans for economic and monetary union and the new call for political union, but in recent weeks her Government has been seeking closer ties with France as a way of counterbalancing the power of a future united Germany.

With Paris and Bonn agreed on the need for a parallel process of German and European unification, foreign diplomats said, recent uncertainty over how the European Community should respond to both the uniting of the two Germanys and the revolution in Eastern Europe should now evaporate.

But the nervousness created by tensions between Paris and Bonn in recent months also reflected the way that France and West Germany had come to view their postwar rapprochement as perhaps the single most important

pillar of European stability.

After the crumbling of the Berlin wall in November, France was alarmed by the pace of German unification and worried openly that West Germany was losing interest in European integration. Mr. Mitterrand also criticized Mr. Kohl for not assuring Poland that its postwar borders would not be challenged.

But Bonn showed irritation with Mr. Mitterrand's apparent effort to move closer to Moscow in response to German unification as well as with his proposal that a special inter-government conference on economic and monetary union be held before West Germany's elections this December.

Their joint statement last week calling for a simultaneous inter-governmental conference on political union in December was therefore seen as a boost for European integration and a symbol of what one Bonn official called "the rediscovery of our friendship."

Today the two leaders went out of their way to emphasize the harmony of their views, with Mr. Kohl reassuring France that German monetary union would not only provide French busi-

nesses with new opportunities but would also benefit all of Europe.

Lithuanian to Study Message

MOSCOW, April 26 (Reuters) — President Landsbergis of Lithuania promised today to "carefully study" a French-German proposal to suspend the effects of recent laws linked with his independence declaration.

"The leadership of Lithuania also desires that a dialogue between the two countries begin as soon as possible," Mr. Landsbergis said. He added that talks would be helped by an end to the Soviet blockade.

The U.N. Today

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